Considering Intersections Between Critical Data Literacies and Digitized Distinctive Collections

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Abstract

As one of the fastest growing components of information literacy programs, many research libraries have situated data literacy within a new set of core services with the goal of optimizing support for research, teaching and learning at their universities. While many libraries have been successful in hosting an array of instructional classes and workshops, many traditional data literacy programs do not include training in the critical analysis of materials that have been digitized from analog collections housed in archives, special collections and museums and made available on digital platforms including institutional repositories. Special collections librarians, archivists, and museum curators continue to be key "digital mediators" as they occupy a strategic position for the development of data competencies for digitized collections. Yet, with the growth of digitized collections, academic libraries have been slow to adapt data literacy methodologies to help students navigate these collections. With this as context, this poster examines the role of emerging critical data literacies (CDL) in fostering students' critical analysis, interpretation, and use of digitized distinctive collections. This poster explores evolving definitions of CDL as well as examines how CDL may inform a data literacy framework for digitized distinctive collections.

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